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	CONCERNING A FILING	FUNDER 35 LISICIB71	09/889327
		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
INTERN	ATIONAL APPLICATION NO	14 January 2000 (14.01.00)	14 January 1999 (14.01.99)
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Item	s 11 to 20 below concern document(	s) or information included:	
114	An Information Disclosure Statemer	nt under 37 CFR 1 1297 and 1 1298 □	
124	An assignment document for record	ling ☐ A separate cover sheet in compliance	with 37 CFR 3/28 and 3/31 is included [
130	A FIRST preliminary amendment□		
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# RECOMBINANT ENZYME WITH EXCELLENT D-AMINO ACID OXIDASE ACTIVITY AND PRODUCTION THEREOF

#### TECHNICAL FIELD

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The present invention relates to a recombinant enzyme with an improved D-amino acid oxidase activity. More particularly, the present invention relates to a D-amino acid oxidase which is fused with a bacterial hemoglobin and shows an excellent efficiency in converting cephalosporin C into glutaryl-7-aminocephalosporanic acid (glutaryl-7ACA) in a bioreactor. Also, the present invention is concerned with a method for producing such a recombinant enzyme.

# **BACKGROUND ART**

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With a share of as much as 40 % in the world market, semi-synthetic cephalosporin antibiotics are safer than other antibiotics and have antibacterial activity over a broad spectrum of bacteria. Usually, the chemical synthesis of semi-synthetic cephalosporin antibiotics is started from 7-aminocephalosporanic acid (7-ACA) which is conventionally prepared by chemically cleaving the aminoadipyl residue at position 7 in cephalosporin C that is purified from a microbial product.

The chemical processes including the cleavage of the aminoadipyl residue at position 7 inevitably produce pollution of the environment on account of toxic chemical reagents used and require a tremendous quantity of energy due to their ultra-low temperature reactions. In addition, there is international tendency toward the severe restriction of the organic solvent remaining in the final product. In result, there remains a need for developing processes which can substitute the chemical processes without producing pollution of the environment and allowing the toxic solvents to remain in the final product.

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In this regard, bioprocesses have attracted intense attention. Particularly in preparing 7-aminocephalosporanic acid, advantage has been taken of enzymes of microbes. Such bioprocesses using enzymes of microbes are usually conducted in aqueous solution at room temperature and thus, require special

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facilities in aspects of energy management and waste water treatment, enjoying the advantage of greatly reducing the production cost of 7-aminocephalosporanic acid.

Microbial conversion of cephalosporin C into 7-aminocephalosporanic acid is conducted in two enzymatic steps: cephalosporin C is oxidated into glutaryl-7ACA by D-amino acid oxidase and glutaryl-7ACA is cleaved at the bond between the glutaryl moiety and the 7-ACA moiety by glutaryl-7ACA acylase.

The D-amino acid oxidases obtained from eucaryotes including Trigonopsis variabilis, Rhodotorula gracilis, Rhodotorula glutinis and Fusarium solani have been used for the microbial conversion of cephalosporin C, thus far. The D-amino acid oxidases of such eucaryotes use FAD as a coenzyme. Thus, during their catalytic oxidation of cephalosporin C, oxygen atoms are always required as an electron acceptor. Since oxygen has extremely low solubility in water, a sufficiently large amount of oxygen must be continuously supplied to the bioreactor in order to achieve performance of the D-amino acid oxidase.

Most enzyme bioreactors employ matrixes in which enzymes are immobilized for reuse. When the D amino oxidases are immobilized in matrixes, however, very poor conversion yields of cephalosporin C are obtained because oxygen molecules cannot be readily diffused in the matrixes. In order to overcome this problem, the oxygen partial pressure in the bioreactor is raised. However, the oxygen pressure increase forces the bioreactor to be specially constructed in addition to being economically unfavorable owing to loss of a large quantity of oxygen.

### DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

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Leading to the present invention, the intensive and thorough research on the bioconversion of cephalosporin C, repeated by the present inventor aiming to efficiently provide oxygen for immobilized D-amino acid oxidase resulted in the finding that, when an oxygen-carrying molecule was immobilized together with D-amino acid oxidase, the catalysis of the enzyme could be performed without a shortage of oxygen supply and that bacterial hemoglobin was effective as the oxygen-carrying molecule.

Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide a recombinant enzyme which shows stable and excellent amino acid oxidase activity when being

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applied to a bioreactor for converting cephalosporin C into 7-aminocephalosporanic acid.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a method for producing such a recombinant enzyme.

Based on the present invention, the above objects could be accomplished by fusing a bacterial hemoglobin (*Vitroscilla* hemoglobin) gene and a D-amino acid oxidase gene to each other by a polymerase chain reaction to give a fusion gene, inserting the fusion gene in an expression vector, expressing the fusion gene in *E. coli*, purifying the fusion enzyme, and immobilizing the fusion enzyme in a polyacrylamide matrix to convert cephalosporin C.

### BEST MODES FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

In the present invention, a bacterial hemoglobin gene, for example, *Vitreoscilla* hemoglobin (hereinafter referred to as "VHb") gene, is fused to a D-amino acid oxidase (hereinafter referred to as "D-AAO") by PCR. In this regard, a stretch of DNA in a 5' end region of the VHb gene is designed as a sense primer while a stretch of DNA in a 3' end region of the VHb gene is used as an antisense primer which has an overlapped portion with a stretch of DNA in a 5' end region of the D-AAO gene. Likewise, a sense primer for the amplification of the D-AAO gene is designed to have an overlapped portion with a stretch of DNA in 3' end region of the VHb gene. With respective primer sets, the VHb gene and the D-AAO gene are amplified. For fusion, these PCR products are mixed and reamplified by use of a primer set consisting of the sense primer used to amplify the VHb gene and the antisense primer used to amplify the D-AAO gene. Alternatively, the VHb gene and D-AAO gene are mixed and may be fused by PCR in a DNA shuffling fashion without using primers.

Next, the VHb-DAAO fusion gene is introduced into an expression vector and expressed.

The catalytic activity of the recombinant enzyme can be measured by detecting the amount of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, which is side-produced during the conversion of cephalosporin C into 7-aminocephalosporanic acid, in luminometric analysis.

To proceed with the research of the present invention, vector pUC8:16 carrying a VHb gene was granted from Professor Benjamin C. Stark, Illinois

Institute of Technology. After being deprived of its self promoter, the vector was amplified at the VHb gene region with reference to the reported gene sequence (Khosla and Bailey, 1988, Mol. Gen. Genet, 214:158-161; Dikshit and Webster, 1988; Gene 70:377-386).

As for the D-AAA gene used in the present invention, it was derived from *Trigonopsis variabilis* or *Rhodotorula gracilis*. These microogranisms were obtained from American Type Culture Collection: *Trigonopsis variabilis* ATCC10679 and *Rhodotorula gracilis* ATCC26217. From each of these microbes, genomic DNA was isolated, and used as a substrate to amplify a D-AAO gene (cDNA). For the cloning and the expressing of the D-AAO gene, commercially available vectors pALTER-EX2 (Promega, USA) and pKK223-3 (Pharmacia Biotech, Sweden) were utilized. PCR mixtures for the amplification of the genes of interest are given in Table 1, below.

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TABLE 1
PCR Mixture Composition

	DNA	25mM	10X	DH <sub>2</sub> O	2.5Mm	Taq	
		MgCl <sub>2</sub>	Buffer		dNTP	polymerase	Primer
VHb	lμl	4µl	10µl	79µl	1,41	5 units	200pM
T. variabilis	2μ1	$4\mu$ l	10μl	79µl	lμl	5 units	200pM
R. gracilis	2μ1	4μl	10μ1	79µl	lμl	5 units	200pM

PCR was carried out in a thermal cycler, such as that manufactured by EquiBio. Belgium, identified as "ThermoJet", with 35 cycles of denaturing temperature at 94 °C for 1 min, annealing temperature at 55 °C for 1 min and extending temperature at 72 °C for 1 min, finally followed by 74 °C extension for an additional 4 min.

Taking advantage of the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> side-produced during the bio-conversion of cephalosporin C. luminometry for analyzing the activity of the D-AAO used in the present invention is based on the following chemical reaction formulas:

D-AAO+Cephalosporin C+ $H_2O_2+O_2 \rightarrow AKA-7ACA+NH_3+H_2O_2$ 

 $H_2O_2 + 2OH^* + Luminol + Peroxidase \rightarrow 4 - Aminophthalate + N_2 + 2H_2O + Light$ 

This analytic method can determine the activity of the recombinant enzyme of the present invention very rapidly and accurately.

For the analysis of the recombinant enzyme, the recombinant vector of the present invention is introduced into  $E.\ coli$  which is, then, cultured in an LB broth. The cultured cells are harvested by centrifugation, washed with phosphate buffered saline (PBS, pH 7), and added with a solution containing cephalosporin C 20 mM, luminol 2 mM, peroxidase 1 unit, and FAD 5  $\mu$ M. Using a luminometer (Tuner design, USA), the quantity of light emitted for 20 sec is measured. From this, the quantity of  $H_2O_2$  is determined by use of a standard curve.

# EXAMPLE 1 Fusion of VHb Gene and D-AAO Gene By PCR

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In order to amplify a VHb gene, a stretch of DNA in a 5' end region of the VHb gene was designed as a sense primer while a stretch of DNA in a 3' end region of the VHb gene was used as an antisense primer which was so designed as to have an overlapped portion with a stretch of DNA in a 5' end region of the D-AAO gene. Likewise, a sense primer for the amplification of the D-AAO gene was designed to have an overlapped portion with a stretch of DNA in 3' end region of the VHb gene.

The DNA fragments thus amplified were purified and mixed with each other. In combination with the sense primer used to amplify the VHb gene and the antisense primer used to amplify the D-AAO gene, the amplified gene mixture was subjected to PCR with 35 cycles of denaturing temperature at 94 °C for 1 min, annealing temperature at 55 °C for 1 min and extending temperature at 72 °C for 1 min, finally followed by 74 °C extension for additional 4 min. The PCR

composition used in this fusion PCR is given in Table 2, below.

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TABLE 2
PCR Mixture Composition For VHb-DAAO Gene Fusion

		MgCl <sub>2</sub>	10X	dH <sub>2</sub> O	dNTP	Taq	
	DNA	(25mM)	buffer		(2.5mM)	Polymerase	Primer
VHb	lμl	4μl	10μl	78µl	$1\mu$ l	5 units	200pM
D-AAO	lμl	4μl	10μ1	78μl	$1\mu$ l	5 units	200pM

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EXAMPLE 2
Fusion of VHb gene and D-AAO gene By DNA Shuffling

The VHb and the D-AAO DNA fragments amplified in Example 1 were purified and mixed with each other. The mixture was subjected to PCR without primers. The PCR is carried out with 35 cycles of denaturing temperature at 94 °C for 1 min, annealing temperature at 55 °C for 1 min and extending temperature at 72 °C for 1 min, finally followed by 74 °C extension for additional 4 min. The PCR composition in this fusion PCR is given in Table 3, below.

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TABLE 3
PCR Mixture Composition For VHb-DAAO Gene Fusion

	DNA	MgCl <sub>2</sub>	10X Buffer	dH <sub>2</sub> O	DNTP (2.5mM)	Taq polymerase
VHb	$10\mu$ l	4μ1	10µl	64µl	$1\mu$ l	5 units
D-AAO	10μΙ	4μl	10μΙ	انب64	lμl	5 units

EXAMPLE 3

Cloning of VHb-DAAO Fusion Gene

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To produce blunt ends, VHb-DAAO fusion DNA fragments amplified in Examples 1 and 2 were treated with Klenow enzyme at 25 °C for 30 min in a Klenow mixture containing a Klenow fragment 4 units, dNTP (2.5 mM) 3  $\mu$ l, and

10x buffer 3  $\mu$ l. The blunt-ended fusion DNA fragments were purified by ethanol precipitation, and sub-cloned in expression vectors, respectively.

For the sub-cloning, pALTER-Ex2 and pKK223-3 were linearlized at *StuI* and *SmaI*, respectively, and dephosphorylated with alkaline phosphatase, followed by incubation for 1 hour at 16 °C along with the fusion gene fragment and T4 DNA ligase.

### **EXAMPLE 4**

# Bio-Conversion of Cephalosporin C in Packed Bed Bioreactor

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E. coli was transformed with the vectors constructed in Example 3, and cultured overnight in LB broth to obtain cell extracts. These cell extracts were precipitated by ammonium sulfate and subjected to dialysis, followed by passing the dialysates through anionic exchange resins (DEAE-Sephadex FF) to purify D-AAO and VHb-DAAO, respectively. These purified enzymes were immobilized in polyacrylamide matrixes which were then cut into cubes (1.5 x 1.5 x 1.5 mm) and put in packed bed bioreactors (1.5 cm in diameter, 15 cm in length).

20 mM cephalosporin C in Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8) was circulated at a flow rate of 1.5 mL/min through the packed bed bioreactors with the aid of a peristaltic pump while oxygen was continuously supplied to the batch type vessels. At regular time intervals, samples were taken from the reactors and quantitatively measured for the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> produced as a result of the bioconversion of cephalosporin C. The results are given in Table 4, below. As indicated in Table 4, the by-product H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was hardly produced in the D-AAO immobilized reactor because of the oxygen deficiency resulting from the resistance of the matrix to oxygen diffusion while the VHb-DAAO fusion enzyme immobilized reactor allowed H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to be produced at an amount 12 times as much as that of the D-AAO immobilized reactor within 45 min. Therefore, the VHb-DAAO fusion enzyme of the present invention could effectively perform the conversion of cephalosporin C without increasing the oxygen partial pressure in the reactor.

The novel recombinant *E. coli*, which was transformed with the recombinant vector pALTER-Ex2 carrying the VHb-DAAO fusion gene of the present invention, was deposited in the Korean Collection for Type Culture at

Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology (KRIBB) under the deposition No. KCTC 8923P on Jan. 18, 1999.

TABLE 4 Conversion Ability of Recombinant D-Amino Acid Oxidases in Terms of Production of  $H_2O_2$ 

Time Per	riod (min)	0	15	30	45	60	90	120
	D-AAO	0	0.5	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.0
H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (μM)	VHb- DAAO	0	2.0	4.5	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0

# INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

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As elucidated in the above examples, the recombinant enzyme VHb-DAAO can be obtained from the novel recombinant E. coli, which harbors a fusion gene consisting of a *Vitreoscilla* hemoglobin gene and a D-amino acid oxidase and can be applied to a bioreactor which can industrially convert cephalosporin C into glutaryl-7ACA.

# INDICATIONS RELATING TO DEPOSITED MICROORGANISM AND OTHER BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS

A. The indications made below rela	ite to the deposited microorganism and other
biological materials referred to in the	description on Page $9$ , Lines $14-16$
B. IDENTIFICATION OF DEPOS	IT Further deposits are identified on an
additional sheet []	
Name of depositary institution (include	ling postal code and country):
The Korean Collection for	Type Cultures (KCTC) at the Korea Research
Institute of Bioscience an	d Biotechnology
#52, Oun-Dong, Yusong-Gu	ı, Taejon, 305-333. Korea
Date of deposit January	Accession Number KCTC 8923P
18, 1999	
C. ADDITIONAL INDICATIONS(	leave blank if not applicable):
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# **CLAIMS**

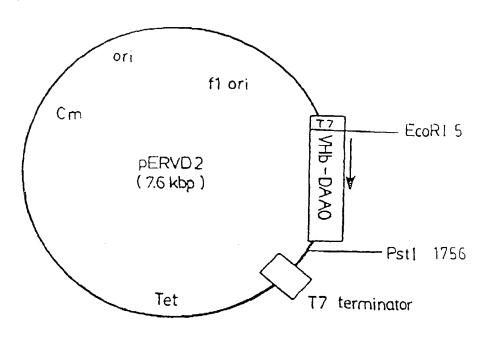
- 1. A recombinant fusion enzyme VHb-DAAO, expressible from a recombinant fusion gene consisting of a gene encoding a bacterial hemoglobin and a gene encoding a D-amino acid oxidase.
- 2. A recombinant fusion enzyme bacterial hemoglobin-D-amino acid oxidase as set forth in claim 1, wherein said bacterial hemoglobin contains a full or a partial length of a *Vitreoscilla* hemoglobin peptide sequence or its functionally analogous peptide sequence.
- 3. A method for producing a recombinant fusion enzyme VHb-DAAO, which comprises fusing a bacterial hemoglobin gene and a D-amino acid oxidase gene to each other by a polymerase chain reaction to give a fusion gene, inserting the fusion gene in an expression vector, expressing the fusion gene in *E. coli*, and purifying the fused enzyme VHb-DAAO.
- 4. A recombinant vector pALTER-EX2/VHb-DAAO, which is constructed by introducing a fusion gene consisting of a bacterial hemoglobin gene and a D-amino acid oxidase.
- 5. A recombinant E. coli (KCTC 8923P), which is transformed with the recombinant vector pALTER-EX2/VHb-DAAO of claim 4.

# **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed is a recombinant enzyme which can convert cephalosprin C into glutaryl-7-aminocephalosprin acid in a bioreactor at a high yield. A bacterial hemoglobin (*Vitreoscilla* hemoglobin) gene and a D—amino acid oxidase gene are fused to each other by PCR and the fused DNA fragment is cloned and express in *E.coli*. In a bioreactor, the recombiant enzyme VHb-DAAO can sufficiently supply oxygen as an electron acceptor by virtue of the fused hemoglobin, thereby showing an excellent capability of converting cephalosporin C.

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FIG. 1



Cm: Coding site of Choloramphenicol interfered gene

Tet: Coding site of Tetracycline interfered gene

T7: T7 RNA Polymerase promoter

Docket No. 60034-301801



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I hereby claim i provisional application(s)	foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have als cation(s) for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing d	so identified below any foreign applic
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8	was filed on July 11, 2001 as Application Serial No. 09; and was amended on (if applicable).	7889.327 AUG 0 1 200
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nventor (if plural numer invention entitled "REC	the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed OMBINANT ENZYME WITH EXCELLENT D-AMIP EOF" the specification of which	and for which a patent is sought on ACID OXIDASE ACTIVITY
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	or, I hercby declare that:	
As a below named invent		
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

And I hereby appoint G.P. SMITH, REG. 20.142; A.C. ROSE, REG. 17,047; L.I. BOVASSO, REG. 24,075; C. BERMAN, REG. 29,249; C. DARROW, REG. 30,166; M.E. HARRIS, REG. 26,690; K.A. MACLEAN, REG. 31,118; C. ROSENBERG, REG. 31,464; M.E. BROWN, REG. 28,590; S.R. HANSEN, REG. 38,486; D.N. LARSON, REG. 29,401; J.W. INSKEEP, REG.

Docket No. 60034-301801

33,910; H.D. JASTRAM, REG. 19,777; B. CANTER, REG. 34,792; C.J. LERVICK, REG. 35,244; L. CULLMAN, REG. 19,645; C.A.S. HAMRICK, REG. 22,586; R.O. GUILLOT, REG. 28,852; J. BOYCE, REG. 40,920; C. CHOU, REG. 41,672; A.B. DIEPENBROCK III, REG. 39,960; M.K. BOSWORTH, REG. 28,186, L. SHERRY, REG. 43,918; L. McROSS, REG. 40,427; T. KHAN, REG. 46,273; L. GUERNSEY REG. 40,008; M. HUGHES, REG. 29,077; R. ROBERTS, REG. 38,597; S. HOWELL, REG. 45,929; R. NADER, P47,260; B. COLEMAN, REG. 39,145; P. HICKMAN, REG. 28,516; J. KUDLA, REG. P47, 724; D. BURTON, REG. 45,321; S. KELLEY, REG. 43,449; OPPENHEIMER WOLFF & DONNELLY LLP, 1400 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto, California 94304, (650) 320-4000, as my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute said application and to transact in connection therewith all business in the Patent and Trademark Office and before-competent International Authorities.

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Wherefore I pray that Letters Patent be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, and I hereby subscribe my name to the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

	(-0)	
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PATENT



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RECOMBINANT ENZYME WITH EXCELLENT D-AMINO OXIDASE ACTIVITY A
ND PRODUCTION THEREOF

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